

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00661 091336Z

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJ: VICTORY OBSERVANCES IN LENINGRAD

REF: MOSCOW 6411

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: LENINGRAD OBSERVED THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY WITH FULL POMP AND CEREMONY, BUT WITH ABSOLUTELY NO MENTION THAT ANYONE ELSE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE DEFEAT OF GERMANY. SPEECHES WERE FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S ROLE AND LEADERSHIP DURING THE WAR AND SINCE, ALMOST TO THE EXCLUSION OF PAYING HOMAGE TO THE WAR SACRIFICES OF MILLIONS OF NON-PARTY SOVIETS. AND A BRIEF FILM CLIP OF STALIN STANDING ATOP LENIN'S MAUSOLEUM PRODUCED A SPONTANEOUS BURST OF APPLAUSE FROM THE LARGE AUDIENCE AT THE TRADITIONAL COMMEMORATIVE GATHERING. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO COUNTS IN LENINGRAD SOCIETY GATHERED THE EVENING OF MAY 8 FOR A COMMEMORATIVE OBSERVANCE OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY. OBLAST' PARTY FIRST SECRETARY (AND CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO) G.V. ROMANOV GAVE THE PRINCIPAL SPEECH, FOLLOWED BY SOME EIGHT OTHERS

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PAGE 02 LENING 00661 091336Z

REPRESENTING VETERANS, MILITARY, WORKERS, YOUTH AND

WOMEN.

3. STRIKING CONTRAST TO BREZHNEV'S SPEECH IN MOSCOW, ROMANOV MADE NO RPT NO MENTION IN HIS SPEECH OF WARTIME ALLIES, COALITION OF FORCES AGAINST FASCISM, ETC. HE EVEN ATTRIBUTED BOTH THE FALL OF HITLER'S GERMANY AND IMPERIAL JAPAN TO THE FORCE OF SOVIET ARMS, ADDING THAT THIS HAD GIVEN IMPETUS TO THE WORLD REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM OF STATES. THE GREAT VICTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WAS MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXTM US-SOVIET RELATIONS CAME IN FOR A NOD IN HIS REMARKS ON THE SUCCESSES OF THE SOVIET PEACE PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY THE AGREEMENTS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS, BUT DETENTE ITSELF WAS DEPICTED TOTALLY IN TERMS OF SOVIET POLICY, BOTH IN INITIATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

4. A STRIKING THEME IN ROMANOV'S AND OTHERS' SPEECHES WAS REPEATED EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF THE PARTY IN ACHIEVING VICTORY, RECOVERING FROM THE WAR, AND OFFERING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR WORLD SOCIALISM. ALMOST EVERY MENTION OF SACRIFICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE WAR WAS LINKED WITH PARTY LEADERSHIP--AT TIMES PRACTICALLY TO THE EXCLUSION OF GIVING DUE CREDIT TO THE SOVIET MASSES WHO MADE THE VICTORY POSSIBLE.

5. THERE WERE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO MILITARY MIGHT OF SOVIET UNION, LATER BUTTRESSED DURING THE "HEAVY" CONCERT PORTION WITH BACKGROUND FILM CLIPS OF VICTORY PARADES IN RED SQUARE OVER THE YEARS. JUXTAPOSITION OF FILM FOOTAGE EVENTUALLY PROGRESSED FROM INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY TO RECENT MILITARY PARADES WHERE TRUCKS TOWING MODERN MISSILES. MAIN ACTIVE MILITARY SPEAKER--A YOUNG FIRST LIEUTENANT--NOTED EMPHATICALLY THAT SOVIET ARMED FORCES STOOD READY TO FULFILL "ANY TASK OF PARTY IN DEFENSE OF NATION."

6. AMONG OTHER FILM CLIPS WAS A SHOT OF STALIN REVIEWING VICTORY PARADE FROM ATOP LENIN'S MAUSOLEUM. PACKED AUDIENCE AT LENINGRAD'S OKTYABR'SKIY CONCERT HALL BROKE INTO SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE WHEN CLIP APPREARED. SOMEWHAT LATER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 Lening 00661 091336Z

IN PROGRAM, SHOT OF BREZHNEV ALSO ELICITED APPLAUSE. INTERESTINGLY, POST-EVENT SHOWING OF PROGRAM ON LENINGRAD TELEVISION CAREFULLY EXCISED THE STALIN PORTION, BUT LEFT IN BREZHNEV.

7. WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT LENINGRAD'S PISKAREVSKOYE MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON MORNING OF MAY 9 FOLLOWED STANDARD SEQUENCE WITH PARTY LAYING FIRST WREATH, FOLLOWED BY MILITARY, NAVAL, KGB,

KOMSOMOL, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONSULAR CORPS.
BRIEF LOUDSPEAKER REMARKS AGAIN DRUMMED OUT THE THEME
OF PARTY LEADERSHIP AND SACRIFICE IN THE WAR.
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